

'LET'S DEVELOP OUR RETAIL SHOPPING'

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Councilman Isen Opposes New Torrance Mortuary

CASE SENT BACK TO PLANNERS

A vigorous speech by Councilman Albert Isen in opposition to a mortuary variance caused the matter to be returned once more to the planning commission "for reconsideration."

The commission had recommended that the council permit the construction of a new mortuary at Cravens and Engracia, right across from the present Stone and Myers mortuary, the only one in Torrance.

Council Silent
Little or no opinion was expressed on the matter by the rest of the council, but when Isen went into his lengthy arguments opposing the mortuary, the council sent the matter back to the planning commission.

Isen, who on another occasion, deplored practice of sending a thoroughly considered recommendation back to commission, was quite in sympathy with the idea this time.

No one brought up the fact that the planning commission's

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COUNCIL BRIEFS

OIL DERRICKS: City Attorney James Hall this week declared that he will draft a comprehensive oil well ordinance. It will cover all problems including that of abandoned wells.

AIRPORT COMMISSION: The following individuals have been appointed so far: Robert B. Jahn, 440 Via Lista by Councilman V. Benstead; Robert B. Hilborn, 24229 Hawthorne, by Councilman A. Isen; John J. Cain, North Torrance, by Mayor N. Draie. Councilman M. Schwab will still make his appointment as will W. Blount.

STREET NAMES: Street names must be stenciled on curbs as soon as curbs are placed in subdivisions, according to a move by Councilman Victor Benstead.

COMMUNITY FAIR: The city waived the collection of a license fee for the community fair since it is a community project.

Meters Approved At First Hearing

Installation of parking meters was approved by a 3 to 1 vote of the city council Tuesday night and no serious opposition is expected when the matter comes up for the second and final hearing.

Voting for the meters were Mayor Nick Draie, Councilmen Albert Isen and Mervin M. Schwab who have favored the meters all along. Councilman Willis G. Blount was absent but has favored the meters in the past.

Councilman Benstead continued to oppose the ordinance on the grounds that the people do not want it and he represents the people.

EDITORIAL Isen and the Mortuaries

Councilman Albert Isen voiced bitter opposition Tuesday night to the establishment of a new mortuary at the corner of Cravens and Engracia.

We are wholeheartedly in favor of a new mortuary for Torrance.

The planning commission recommended that permission to construct the mortuary be granted by the council. The commission's decision was both fair and impartial, based on a very thorough investigation.

We are gravely concerned whether Mr. Isen as a human being could be so unmoved in his deliberations to completely ignore his personal friendship with Mr. Hugh Sherfey, co-owner of Stone & Myer Mortuary, which is located across the street from the new mortuary site.

Sherfey's is the only mortuary now serving Torrance. We believe Mr. Isen to be biased in his opinions. We do not believe in business monopolies and we feel that Mr. Isen is being used as a tool in this issue.

Cravens and Engracia contains a gas station on one side; a telephone company on the other; a parking lot on the third; and a funeral parlor on the fourth.

Therefore we agree, with the planning commission that the corner is ideally suited for a new funeral home.

While Councilman Isen put a earnest lip service to the needs of the business development of the city, he seems to have drawn a sudden mental blank when it comes to mortuaries. Does he forget that mortuaries are businesses, too, and that one has to pay to be buried? Does he think that a 50,000 population does not need more than one mortuary?

If Cravens and Engracia were really the ideal corner for other types of businesses, how is it that no other interest has been shown in the corner for a number of years?

If Mr. Isen really desired the business expansion of the city, he would encourage rather than discourage businessmen who wish to invest capital in this area. Otherwise Torrance will really have a quarantine sign hung on it by potential business investors.

Most of the time we have a great deal of respect for Councilman Isen's alert mind. But occasionally he goes off the deep end. This is one of those times.

MOUNTIES WINNERS IN 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Torrance Mounted Police received an outstanding honor when they emerged first place winners at the 50th Annual Fourth of July parade in Inglewood Monday.

This is the largest and most competitive parade in Southern California. It was disclosed. The local group received a first place trophy and a blue ribbon.

The award was presented because of the "fine grooming and uniform size of the horses and the neat appearance of the equipment and the 23 officers."

The formation was judged "superior by the judges."

"Winning first place in this parade is a major achievement and a mile stone in the career of the local mounted police," Capt. Andy Alexander, leader of the group, stated.

A letter of opposition from James Hesser was also read.

"Tokens"
An interesting but incidental angle was brought into the picture when Councilman Albert Isen suggested that businessmen might issue parking tokens or nickles to their customers as an added incentive to downtown shoppers. The ordinance will leave room for such a provision if the businessmen ever want to consider this matter.

Isen, who moved for the adoption of the ordinance, emphasized three points: 1) the meters will be installed on a trial basis and that he'll be the first to take action for their removal if they don't work out; 2) downtown merchants will carry the

full cost of off-street parking in the downtown area; 3) the only cost to the residents are the pennies and nickles put in the meters.

The ordinance makes the city council the legislative authority, thus eliminating a special parking authority.

Location
The meters are to be installed along Cravens ave., between Torrance blvd. and Cabrillo ave., between Post ave. and Carson st.; Sartori ave. between Torrance blvd and Cabrillo ave., between Border ave. and Marcella ave. from Border to Arlington ave., Gramercy ave. between Cabrillo and Carson and Post ave. and El Prado from Cravens to Border.

Council Calls For Special Civic Center Bond Election

Steps calling for a special civic center bond election in the fall were initiated by the city council Tuesday night. This action followed after petitions bearing 1546 signatures calling for such an election were submitted to the council.

The petitions call for consideration of a \$700,000 bond issue for the Civic Center, to provide offices to replace the crowded condition at City Hall, Police Department, and City Jail.

Pool
The second proposition which the petition requests be placed on the ballot is a swimming pool and bathhouse, which would cost about \$250,000.

City Attorney James Hall was ordered to take all appropriate steps to bring the election about.

While the petitions did not comply with the formal regulations, they were considered an expression of the people.

There was some discussion about combining the local election with the national November election. This idea was dropped presently for fear that the local issue would get lost in the shuffle.

Fall Election
The proposed election will be held in September or October.

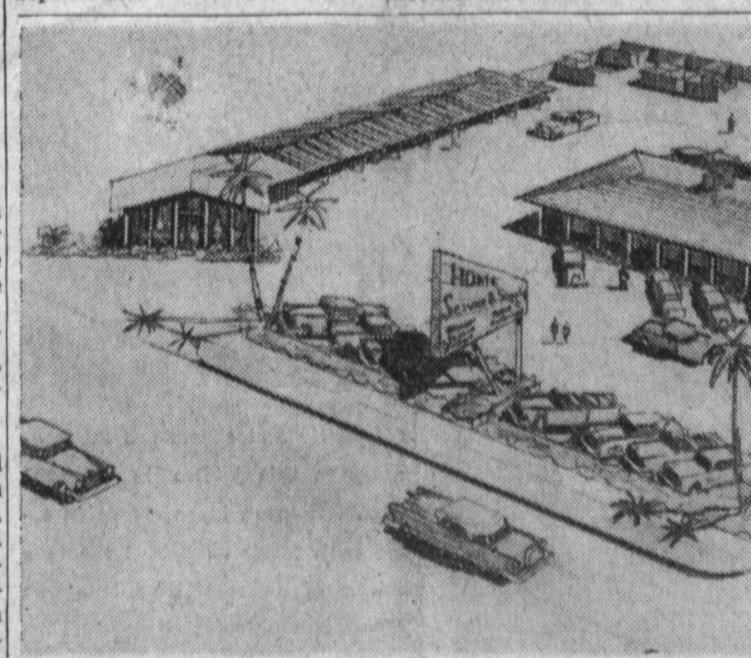
The drive for reconsidering the two bond issues so narrowly defeated in the last bond election.

LATE NEWS

ADDITIONAL FUNDS: The federal government this week allocated additional funds for the construction of the Carl Steele elementary school. The fund has been increased from \$336,000 to \$503,000. The school will be located near 190th St. and Hawthorne Blvd. The increase will permit the addition of four or more classrooms and a multi-purpose unit.

AIRPORT LEASES: Sheridan-Grey Machine Tools and Hi-Shear Rivet Tool Co. were granted 50-year leases by the city, according to Bob Haggard who represented the firms. The city will gain \$135,000 from the leases. Total cost of the two projects will be about \$500,000. Location is the northeast corner of the airport, west of Crenshaw.

FOURTH OF JULY: A safe and sane Fourth of July was reported by the Torrance police department.



BUILDING SUPPLY CENTER . . . Negotiations are now in progress with the city for a lease on the Torrance airport to construct the above home service supply center. The \$100,000

Mayor Urges Community Cooperation

Spearheading the drive to expand the retail development of Torrance, Mayor Nick Draie Tuesday night called upon the chamber of commerce, realtors, and the other business and professional people for help in developing the tremendous retail potentialities of the city of Torrance.

"We are constantly hearing about 'Torrance the city of Industrial opportunity,'" the mayor said. "Let's start to work on 'Torrance the city of retail opportunity'."

Choice Sites

Now that the city itself has 34 choice acres available for a retail shopping area at Highway 101 and Crenshaw it should make every attempt to interest business investors to erect a thriving shopping center there, Draie said. He asked the chamber of commerce for support in promoting interest in the area.

The city recently received the State's permission to grant 50 year leases on this triangular property. There have been rumors that a 15-million dollar area was intended here with drug store, restaurants, department stores, shoe stores, and numerous other retail outlets.

Mayor Draie was quick to point out that he did not mean to belittle the importance of industry and agriculture but he felt that the retail shopping development of this area has been neglected. He emphasized the need of a well-balanced city.

Favorable Response Seen

Indications were that the chamber of commerce would be quite ready to cooperate with the city on this drive to develop Torrance's shopping areas and draw new stores into the area. Paul Lorange, president of the chamber of commerce, has long been a staunch advocate of the thorough development of Torrance.

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Last Two Weeks For Contest

There are two more weeks to go in the annual Torrance Press amateur photo contest with two more finalists to be picked, one every week.

Everybody can get into the act. Photos need not be of a local nature. Just bring your photos to the Torrance Press office at 1406 Cravens any time until Monday at 5 p.m. in order to qualify for the Thursday edition.

The contest is open to everyone living within the circulation area of this newspaper. You may enter a different picture every week.

Photos should be on 8x10 or 5x7 glossy paper. If smaller, bring in the negative as well. All pictures may be picked up at the Press Office at the end of the contest.

Include the following information with your picture: name, age, address, phone number, explanation of the picture. See story this page for details.



FIRST OF ITS KIND . . . President Perry Connett recently presented B. C. Buxton (right) with a Life Membership certificate in the Torrance-Lomita Realty board for Buxton's long service and outstanding contributions to the group. This is the first life membership ever presented by the board.

Underground Water Supply Threatened

About 53,000 barrels of mineralized oil field waste water (brine) are presently discharged into the ground every month in the Torrance basin. This may some day present a serious pollution problem of the underground water supply here.

The importance of long-range planning to cope with the water pollution problem was pointed out last week at a special meeting of the city council by Carl B. Johnston of the L. A. Regional Water Pollution Control Board and Linne C. Larson, executive officer.

Oil Wells
Discharge from oil wells present the greatest danger to the underground water supply. No well or group of wells have been singled out as being specifically responsible for contaminating the water supply. Some time ago it was found, however, that of the 400 or more wells in the Torrance area, about 130 separate disposal sights were potential pollution dangers.

The Torrance basin included the area from Redondo Beach boulevard and Hawthorne boulevard to 190th street and Main and to the crest of the Hills.

George Powell, Torrance's representative on the Water Pollution committee, informed the council that he was preparing a water pollution ordinance for consideration.

It would provide for proper disposal measures at future industrial and drilling installations.

Needs
In order to dispose of waste products properly, sewers and cooperative disposal systems are needed, Larsen stated.

The disposal problem is particularly acute in the south Torrance oil fields where many independent operators have their wells.

There is only one sewer line here. In order to provide a proper sewer network an assessment district is needed. This is up to the residents in that particular area. It is hoped that such a district will soon be formed with the new tracts being developed there.

It is up to the oil men, however, to provide the cooperative disposal system through which the brine must pass before it can be injected into the sewers.

An ordinance presently being studied by the council to eliminate abandoned wells has been considered as one of the important steps in the battle against water pollution. Elimination of these wells will lessen the possibility of sumps, tanks, and reinjection of waste water.

Results of the water pollution survey in this area will be revealed soon.

We Apologize

Our classified department extends sincere apologies to our many readers who were not able to place a classified ad this week because we were just swamped! Due to our tremendous growth in our classified department we urge our readers to call us as early as possible to insure placement of your classified ad.

First Finalist Wins Again In Press Amateur Photo Contest

Russell H. Carroll did it again! Carroll, the first finalist in the annual Torrance Press amateur photography contest, emerged as the finalist this the fourth week of the contest.

Carroll's prize-winning photo of his son, Ronald Arthur Carroll, 14 months, is entitled

(See picture on Page 3)

"H'mm, Now How Did That Tune Go?"

His earlier photo was of His Excellency, Bishop Timothy Manning, giving a blessing as he was leaving St. Catherine of Labour church.

Prizes
A first prize of \$50 in cash will be awarded by the Torrance Press when the contest ends. The winners of the top three prizes will be chosen from among the six finalists.

Second prize in the all-amateur competition is a Kodak Dual-flash 88 deluxe flash camera outfit (\$27.50). It consists of a camera, flash attachment, eight bulbs, two rolls of film, two batteries, and flash shield. Second prize will be awarded

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Huge Building Supply Center Planned Here

Lease negotiations with the city for the construction of a \$100,000 home service supply center on the Torrance airport are now under way. It was learned by the Torrance Press this week.

The ultra-modern center will be located on 1 1/2 acres about 1000 feet west of Crenshaw boulevard on Highway 101, according to Don Armstrong, negotiating attorney for the firm.

A centrally located 2000 square foot building is planned, surrounded by parking areas and project calls for a centrally located building, surrounded by a parking ring, which in turn will be surrounded by an outer circle of supply stores.